

NASH Conference, Kentucky Delegation

Workgroup Session, 7/25/05
Loews Annapolis Hotel/Conference Center

Data/P-16 Issues, Longitudinal Student Data Systems

- KDE had recently submitted a proposal to the Institute for Education Sciences for a three-year, \$6 million grant for the KIDS Project (Kentucky Instructional Data System). This project will establish a longitudinal student data system at the K-12 level, which will allow the state to accumulate demographic, coursework, and achievement data on individual students over time.

- **Background:**

- Much of the hardware and software foundation for KIDS has been laid over the past several years through the Max data project. This fall, KDE will begin assigning a unique student identifier to each child in the system, which is an important part of what is needed.
- KIDS will be necessary to take the state fully to the longitudinal student data level. KIDS will include, among other things, support to revamp CATS results so that these can be stored in database tables associated with individual students. KIDS will also allow teachers to track their students' progress and decision makers to follow the results of the teaching and learning processes.
- The CPE is interested in linking this K-12 data with the state's higher education system.

- **Issues:**

- Funding: If federal resources are not available, how will effort be paid for? Can KDE find funds internally or pool resources with other agencies?
- Staffing: Who will do the work and how will the work be done?
- Trust: Will collaborating agencies trust one another? Will educators trust policymakers and educators to use this information appropriately?
- Buy-in: Will the effort fail if one or more agencies refuse to support it?
- Training and application of results: How will the system be utilized once it is completed? What do we want the data in the system to tell us? What difference will having these data available make to students? How will educators in the field know what to do with data once they are available? Can we use the system to reduce the data gathering burden on schools?

- **Next steps:**

- If KDE receives federal funding, the KIDS project would have a Nov. 1 start date.
 - The KIDS grant proposal and other information about data systems should be a foundation for a white paper on a longitudinal student data system.
 - A report should be prepared for the General Assembly detailing the need for such a data system and the necessity of funding and supporting it adequately. This might be part of a cross-agency/level (KDE/EPsB/CPE) joint project funding request to the Kentucky legislature.
- The workgroup advocates the creation of a cohesive planning process for determining how to move forward on a longitudinal data system. An action plan for moving on the longitudinal student data system should be developed. The group recognized that KIDS represents a subset of a larger array of activities that need to be undertaken over the next 2-3 years. It is imperative that a “road map” be collaboratively developed of all that must be accomplished for the system to be appropriately implemented.